

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 162929

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: OTRA

SUBJECT: RABBI MILLER'S TRIP TO ROMANIA

1. RABBI MILLER HAS REPORTED TO US HIS CONVERSATION IN GENEVA WITH RABBI ROSEN AND GIVEN SOME TENTATIVE INDICATIONS OF HIS PLANS REGARDING A VISIT TO ROMANIA. ROSEN DISCUSSED CONSIDERATIONS WHICH HAD LED HIM TO SCALE DOWN ESTIMATES OF NUMBER OF JEWS IN ROMANIA (FROM 90-100,000 TO 70-80,000) AND TO CONCLUDE 30,000 WAS TOO HIGH A FIGURE FOR NUMBER WHO MIGHT WISH TO EMIGRATE. WITHOUT ACCEPTING ROSEN'S FIGURES RABBI MILLER INDICATED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR HIM (MILLER) TO HAVE CHANCE TO ASSESS ACCURACY OF THOSE FIGURES. MILLER HAS BEEN INVITED ON BEHALF OF MINISTRY OF CULTS TO GO TO BUCHAREST AND ROSEN PRESSED FOR TRIP AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. (MILLER HAD REFUSED TO SEE ROSEN IN TEL AVIV AS HE CONSIDERED IT INAPPROPRIATE AND CLUMSY FOR ROMANIANS TO RAISE JEWISH EMIGRATION SITUATION WITH HIM WHILE HE WAS IN ISRAEL).

2. RABBI MILLER FOUND ROSEN SOMEWHAT "PEEVED" THAT HE
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(ROSEN) HAD NOT BEEN INVITED TO COME AND APPEAR BEFORE

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES BUT MILLER TOLD HIM THAT HE (MILLER) KNEW WHAT WAS TO BE DONE WITH CONGRESS AND GAVE HIM NO ENCOURAGEMENT OR INDICATION THAT ROSEN TESTIMONY WOULD BE HELPFUL.

3. RABBI MILLER NOW DEFINITELY INTENDS TO GO TO BUCHAREST BUT IS UNDECIDED RE TIMING. WE HAVE STRESSED USEFULNESS OF VISIT SUFFICIENTLY EARLY TO PERMIT VOTE ON TRADE AGREEMENT BEFORE RECESS BUT MILLER HAS RESERVED POSITION ON THIS, STRESSING NEED FOR SOME CLEAR INDICATORS WHEN HE GOES.

4. WE WOULD LIKE TO GO BACK TO HIM ABOUT MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK. FOR US TO BE CONVINCING WE WILL PROBABLY NEED REASONABLE PICTURE OF PROBABLE JULY EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL. WE WOULD NOT WANT YOU TO PRESS GOR FURTHER ON THIS BUT IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF YOU COULD GET FROM ISRAELI AMBASSADOR COHEN LATEST INFORMATION AND HIS BEST GUESS AS TO LIKELY EMIGRATION FIGURE FOR JULY. INGERSOLL

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